

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
June 27, 2016

Attendees: Bobby Beagan, Jim Marotta, Dick Williamson, Mike Ensley; Kayla McNamara: Guests: Paul Griffin, Mara Huston

Minutes from May 23, 2016 approved with corrections 4-0.

Public Comment: None

Kayla McNamara presented her monthly update to the Commissioners. (Attached) Topics included request to move meetings in July and August to 5:30 or 6:00pm due to the long days of the Town Camp. The July Commission meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Kayla informed the Commission the department will be moving to a new software, MyRec, by the end of summer. New Pool rates will go into effect on July 1, 2016. Field condition and watering issues still a concern. Discussion on the possibility of contacting a third party to review the field conditions and there was also discussion of digging an additional well at Haskell.

Baseball Fields Update – Discussion on treating the warning tracks for weed and grass suppression. It was suggested to follow-up with Chris Felt on the conditions of the warning tracks and if a third party was used for the work. Kayla did meeting with Mike Walsh regarding the request to add another batting cage at Haskell. Kayla stated she gave the okay to place the additional cage between the existing cage and the backstop. Kayla stated that there was also discussion of a new portable fence at Haskell. Mike Ensley asked about a permanent outfield fence at Haskell field, since it is a baseball field that is used all the time and the portable fence is only removed during the winter. The Commission discussed the impact on the ability to layout different plans for the fields if a permanent fence is allowed.

Featherland field conditions were also discussed and the irrigation plan. Kayla stated she spoke with Chris and the fields are being watered as planned. The summer drought is having a big impact on the condition of all fields. Bobby stated his concern that some areas of the fields look better than others. Mike Ensley stated they keep getting excuses and the fields keep getting worse. The Commissioners were in agreement that it makes sense to discuss the field conditions with a 3rd party vendor, such as Arborturf, and see if SYSA would be interested in funding some of the expense.

Fiscal Year End Budget Updates - Kayla gave a brief overview of FY16 and stated she will update the Commissioners again at the end of August after the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. The Field Enterprise Fund will not bring in enough funds to cover the projected expenses, so retained earnings will be used to cover the costs. The Pool Enterprise Fund is in better shape due to a large credit from Eversource that covered some of the pool utility expenses during the year.

FY 18 Capital Planning – Dick asked about the plan for replacing the tennis courts at Featherland and if that should be a CPC request. Bobby is still concerned about the actual use of the tennis courts and Mike added he is concerned about actual use also. There was discussion about using cameras on the Feely tennis courts to monitor the actual use. Jim mentioned he has seen articles on the use of cameras to monitor usage, which would help in a presentation for the need of the courts.

Jim M. asked Paul G. about the status of the money in the Friends of Park and Recreation account. Paul said some paperwork needs to be filed in order for the account to become active again. Davis field improvements and a possible traffic study was discussed. Paul stated he didn't think the Town of Sudbury had any interest in spending money at Davis, he felt that if the work could be funded privately it would be better than going to the town for a vote.

Jim M. stated he felt the Town would wait until the money was received from the Meadowwalk deal (\$500,000) and use that money for any field expense requests.

Commissioners discussed Sudbury Station and its potential impact on Ti-Sales field. It was thought that there could be a drainage problem. It did not appear that there would be any fields associated with this project.

Mara H. asked if there were any Pool Capital Projects. There was concern that any capital project requested for the pool would not be approved since the Fairbank Task Force is still working on a new facility.

Creation of a Pool Stabilization Fund was discussed for pool capital items. Jim M. said they may need to look into the pool fees to cover the capital expenses. Bobby B. stated that was just another way of taxing the residents.

Fairbanks Task Force Update – the Board of Selectmen will be voting in new members to the task force. It was stated that everything is up in the air at this time due the previous vote on a new facility voted down by the town residents. It is Jim Kelly's hope that a new presentation could be ready for the Fall town meeting.

P&R Commission Appointment – July 12th meeting with Board of Selectmen – This will be a joint meeting with the BOS and the candidates who are seeking appointment to the open Park and Recreation Commission seat. Jim M. stated he may not be able to be there, but they will need a quorum from both the BOS and Park and Recreation Commission to hold the meeting.

Misc. – Discussion about a Charter for the Park and Recreation Commission and what Melissa Murphy-Rodriguez (Town Manager) will allow within the Town Manager Act.

Also discussed was the dock residents placed in Willis Lake. The Board of Health requested that it be removed from the lake. There was concern over liability and that it would encourage swimming at Willis Lake. There was discussion on whether there should be a sign with a posting that no swimming is allowed at the beach.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm